Claims:

1. A method of performing a recovery operation of an operating system for a computer entity, said computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor; and

at least one data storage device, wherein said data storage device is configured into a plurality of partition areas;

said method comprising the steps of:

copying a back-up operating system from a back-up source onto an operating system back-up area partition which is not used for direct running of an operating system by said computer entity;

copying a user settings data from said back-up source to a user settings archive partition area of said data storage device; and

resetting said computer entity.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

prior to said step of copying said back-up operating system to said operating system back-up area partition, copying a content of said operating system back up area partition into a reserved space partition area of said data storage device.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

checking a version of said back-up operating system stored on a back-up data storage media; and

comparing said operating system version, with a hardware of said computer entity.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

copying said back-up operating system from said operating system back-up partition area to a primary operating system partition area of said data storage device, wherein said step of resetting said computer entity comprises rebooting from said back-up copy operating system copied to said primary operating system partition, and said user settings data copied from said user settings archive partition.

5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising the step of:

copying user data from said back-up source to one or more data partitions of said data storage device, said secondary data partition area being a data partition area for storage of data.

6. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said step of resetting said computer entity comprises the steps of:

forcing said computer entity to boot from an emergency operating system stored on an emergency operating system partition area of said data storage device;

overwriting a content of said primary operating system partition with said back-up operating system stored in said operating system back-up area partition; and

restoring client and application configuration settings from said user settings archive partition area.

7. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said step of checking a version of said back-up operating system with a hardware of said computer entity comprises:

reading a list of supported hardware types from said operating system stored on said back-up media;

comparing said read list of supported hardware types with a current hardware type data stored on said computer entity;

if said current hardware type data stored on said computer entity is incompatible with said read list of supported hardware types, generating an error message.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of resetting said computer entity comprises:

resetting said computer entity, including deleting application and user configuration setting data; and

restoring said user configuration and setting data from said user settings archive partition area.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

if an error occurs in said recovery operation, storing an event data describing at least one event of said restore operation.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

if an error occurs in said recovery operation, restoring a primary operating system to a primary operating system partition area of said data storage device reserved for use by said primary operating system, from a copy of said primary operating system temporarily stored in a reserved space partition of said data storage device.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of resetting said computer entity comprises deleting user settings data.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

restoring said operating system back-up area partition of said data storage device;

restoring said user settings archive partition area of said data storage device; and

restoring at least one user data partition area.

13. A method of storing a back-up operating system of a computer entity to a back-up media, said computer entity comprising a pristine copy of an operating system stored in an operating system back-up area data partition of a

data storage device, and a primary operating system stored in a primary operating system partition area of said data storage device;

said method comprising:

copying a plurality of operating system files in a pristine manufactured state from said operating system back up area data partition onto a back-up media; and

copying a set of configuration settings from a user settings archive partition area of said data storage device to said back-up media.

14. The back-up method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of:

copying user data from a data partition of said data storage device to said back-up media.

15. The back-up method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, further comprising the step of:

copying user data from a secondary data partition of said data storage device onto said back-up media.

16. The back-up method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of:

copying data uniquely identifying said computer entity to said back-up media.